

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, prior to line 5, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is for entry into the U.S. national phase under §371 for International Application No. PCT/IB02/004990 having an international filing date of November 28, 2002 and from which priority is claimed under all applicable sections of Title 35 of the United States Code including, but not limited to, Sections 120, 363 and 365(c).

Technical Field--

On page 1, prior to line 12, please insert the following heading:

--Background of the Invention--

On page 3, prior to line 4, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

--This invention presents a general similarity measure that is easily applicable to a great number of independent problem contexts without many changes. The runtime is only dependent on the number of characters the search string S is composed of. In contrast to an edit distance (in combination with DP) the runtime is only effected by the defined tolerance concerning variances, because it is not affected by a tolerance in matters of insertions and deletions.--

On page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 as follows:

--This implementation is (with some transformations) also applicable in all technical fields wherein strings of quantized values ~~[[has]]~~ have to be compared with ~~another~~ others. For example the following exemplary fields of applications among ~~[[of]]~~ others, which are explained more in detail in the description of the figures:

- Associative text string search
- Genome analysis
- Speech recognition
- Musical melody search--

On page 11, prior to line 17, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 12 prior to line 16, please insert the following heading:

--Detailed Description--

On page 15, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 as follows:

--Figure [[5]] 4 shows the definition of a given sequence of A_{s_i} defining a unique order.

Above the line the position of each value within the sequence is depicted by the natural numbers 1 to 7. Below the lines the appearance of each single entity is numbered by an index of natural numbers, based on the positions of the entities.--